

Attorney Docket: 48900-22

Serial No.: **10/716,150**
Amdt. dated December 15, 2004
Reply to Office Action dated September 15, 2004

Amendments to the Specification:**Replace paragraph [0015] with the following rewritten paragraph:**

[0015] Different modes of fastening or fixing the absorbent neck shield to the neck are contemplated. One exemplary fastening mode is shown in FIG. 2A, in which the absorbent neck shield comprises an incomplete circular form whose two ends 210 and 220 have opposite ~~[Velcro™]~~ **VELCRO™** strips 212 and 222. ~~[Velcro™]~~ **VELCRO™** strips 212 and 222 are incorporated into the sides of the ends 210 and 220, respectively, so that when the ends 210 and 220 of the shield overlap, the strips 212 and 222 in ends 210 and 220 can be fastened together. The amount of overlap can be varied by the user, thereby adjusting the size of the neck shield to fit the neck of the subject in the appropriate manner.

Replace paragraph [0016] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0016] Another exemplary fastening mode is shown in FIG. 2B, in which the absorbent neck shield comprises an incomplete circular form whose two ends 210 and 220 have opposite ~~[Velcro™]~~ **VELCRO™** strips 212 and 222. Rather than attaching the ~~[Velcro™]~~ **VELCRO™** strips 212 and 222 to the sides the neck shield as is done in FIG. 2A, the two ~~[Velcro™]~~ **VELCRO™** strips 212 and 222 in FIG. 2B are attached to the end tips of ends 210 and 220 of the neck shield. In the neck shield of FIG. 2B, ~~[Velcro™]~~ **VELCRO™** strips 212 and 222 are positioned at the front or back of the subject's neck, and, when strips 212 and 222 are fastened, the two ends 210 and 220 of the absorbent neck shield of FIG. 2B do not touch one another, but rather there is more or less distance between them, depending on the size of the neck of the subject. In the neck shield of either FIG. 2A or FIG. 2B, ~~[Velcro™]~~ **VELCRO™** strips 212 and 222 are preferably fastened together after the neck shield has been placed around the neck of the subject.

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Replace paragraph [0017] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0017] Although ~~[Velcro™]~~ VELCRO™ strips are used as the fastening means in the embodiment shown in FIGS. 2A and 2B, other embodiments may use a variety of means. For example, the ends 210 and 220 of the absorbent neck shield could have button tabs or snaps attached, or strips of fabric that are tied together in order to fasten the absorbent neck shield.

Replace paragraph [0024] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0024] FIGS. 7A-7C show specific implementations of the presently preferred embodiment shown in FIG. 5. In FIG. 7A, the absorbent neck shield 500 is shown alone, without the bib 510. In the specific implementation of FIG. 7A, the absorbent material forming the interior of the absorbent neck shield 500 is polyurethane with polyethylene coating, which provides a soft and pleasant feel as well as the absorbent quality required. On the outside (not shown in FIG. 7A) and the bottom section of the absorbent neck shield 500, non-woven polypropylene forms a substantially fluid-impermeable barrier. The absorbent neck shield 500 shown in FIGS. 7A-7C fastens in the manner shown in FIG. 2A, i.e., by overlapping the two ~~[Velcro™]~~ VELCRO™ strips 212 and 222. In FIG. 7A, the surface of ~~[Velcro™]~~ VELCRO™ strip 222 can be seen on the right, while only the stitching attaching ~~[Velcro™]~~ VELCRO™ strip 212 to the absorbent neck shield 500 can be seen on the left (the ~~[Velcro™]~~ VELCRO™ strip 212 itself is on the other side).

Replace paragraph [0025] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0025] FIG. 7B shows a specific implementation of the combination neck shield 500 and bib 510 where the shield 500 and bib 510 are detachably connected to one another. In the specific implementation shown in FIG. 7B, the absorbent neck shield is attached by means of ~~[Velcro™]~~ VELCRO™ strips, although any means of removable attachment may be used in accordance with the present invention. In FIG. 7B, the outer

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surface of bib portion 510 is polyurethane, while the inner surface (not shown) of bib portion 510 (which faces the chest of the subject wearing neck shield/apron combination) has a coating of polyethylene. By these means, the substances on the outer surface of bib portion 510 will not bleed through the material to the clothing of the subject underneath.

Replace paragraph [0033] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0033] The appropriate fastening or affixing means for a wrap-around shield depends upon the limb or portion of the body around which the shield will be wrapped and the activities the subject will be engaged in while wearing the wrap-around shield. For example, as indicated above, elasticity may be preferred for wrapping around an arm engaged in cleaning, while ~~Velcro™~~ VELCRO™ strips or a resilient 'backbone' may be preferred for wrapping around a neck.